

**Date:** April 1, 2019

**To:** The Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Chair; The Honorable Sherrie Sprenger, Vice Chair; The Honorable Chris Gorsek, Vice-Chair; Members of the House Judiciary Committee

**From:** Virginia Canavan

**Re:** I support HB 3224 to require district attorney accountability and transparency

Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Sprenger and Gorsek, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

My name is Virginia Canavan. I'm an Oregon voter and appreciate that our democracy provides me the opportunity to share my views on this policy to my elected representatives. I am asking you to pass House Bill 3224. I believe very strongly that District Attorneys, as elected government officials compensated with taxpayer monies, should be required to develop written, available to the public, policies on which they make their daily decisions when carrying out their duties in the criminal justice system.

District Attorneys are some of the most powerful people in the criminal justice system and their decisions have a huge impact on the members of the community. Voters and other members of the community have little information about the DA's approach to criminal justice and how the office functions. This needs to be changed and HB 3224 is an important step in creating this needed transparency. As a voter, property owner and taxpayer I have a right to know my elected official's approach and policies are in maintaining justice and keeping our community safe.

Our justice system is failing our communities. It won't get better until the Legislature shows some leadership in creating the needed accountability and public transparency in our state and counties' criminal justice system.

Sincerely,  
Virginia Canavan  
Springfield, Oregon